Cotswold Archaeology

Maudslay Park, Great Alne
Warwickshire

Archaeological
Strip, Map & Sample Excavation

for

CgMs Consulting

CA Project: 660114
CA Report: 13076

April 2013

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Maudslay Park
Location:	Great Alne, Warwickshire
NGR:	SP 12061 59812
Type:	Strip, Map & Sample Excavation
Date:	February 2013
Site code:	MPK 13

In February 2013, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological strip, map & sample excavation on the site of Great Alne Hall, Warwickshire, a late 19th-century house, designed and built by the architect Mr G. H. Hunt for Mr Daniel Rowlinson Ratcliff. The house was demolished in the late 1930s and offices were eventually built over the site, with the grounds being developed for a motor-manufacturing factory. This industrial complex, Maudslay Park, is now being demolished in turn and the site is being redeveloped for housing. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and forms part of a programme of archaeological investigation being carried out at the site.

Excavation revealed the substantial stone and brick foundations of the Victorian house. The remains of the southern part of the house comprised a basement, divided into four cells, which would have occupied the area below the principal rooms on the south side of the house. This area was entirely backfilled with demolition rubble to a depth of *c*. 0.6m and its removal revealed a rammed brick rubble floor. On the northern side of the house were the remains of the cellar, which consisted of five brick-lined rooms with white-washed walls, linked by a passage from the steps. The walls survived to a height of up to *c*. 1.8m and the floor was laid with purple-grey setts, which were continuous throughout the cellar. Internal features included a coal chute, part of a metal-framed window, door pins, drains, a gutter and the imprint on the larder walls of brick 'lockers'. Ridge tiles, coloured floor tiles, decorative ironwork, the twisted remains of leadlight windows, decorative wall tiles and fragments of marble from fireplace surrounds were recovered from the demolition deposits, giving an indication of the splendid interior decoration that once adorned the house.

Other than agricultural land drains, there was no evidence for any activity or structures on the site prior to the construction of the 19th-century house.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2013, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological strip, map & sample excavation on the site of Great Alne Hall, Warwickshire, a late 19th-century house that was demolished in the late 1930s prior to being taken over by the Maudslay Motor Company (NGR: SP 12061 59812; Fig 1). The work, which was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (CgMs), was carried out following the demolition of buildings associated with the former industrial use of the site.

1.2 The scope of the archaeological investigation, which was negotiated between Cathy Patrick (CgMs) and Anna Stocks, Warwickshire County Council's Planning Archaeologist (WCCPA), was detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CgMs (2012). The WSI was supported by a site-specific method statement issued by CA (2013).

1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI and method statement and followed best practice, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2008) and the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

1.4 The site, which in its entirety covers *c.* 4.9ha, comprises the disused industrial works of Maudslay Park, which are located on the north-eastern outskirts of the village of Great Alne, approximately 4km to the north-east of Alcester town centre (Fig. 1). It consists of a complex of workshops, chemical storage buildings, offices, access roads and hardstanding that were largely built during the latter half of the 20th century and were at one time connected with the automotive industry. The site is situated on a gradual, south-facing slope overlooking the valley of the River Alne, with the ground rising to the north and north-east, in the direction of Wood Farm and Carmore Hill. The strip, map and sample area, which covers *c.* 600m^2 (Fig. 2), lies near the centre of the former industrial complex, at *c.* 67m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), on an artificially levelled area that was formerly occupied by a 1950s office block.

1.5 The geology comprises Triassic Dolomitic siltstones of the Mercia Mudstone Group, with outcrops of the Arden Sandstone Formation forming the higher ground to the north and north-east (http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex).

Archaeological and historical background

1.6 An archaeological appraisal of the site was undertaken by CgMs in 2004. This reported that there were no records in the Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record for prehistoric, Roman or medieval settlement or activity within the site, although the proximity of the Roman town at Alcester and the village of Great Alne suggested some potential for Roman and medieval remains to occur in the vicinity.

1.7 The village of Great Alne lies at the southern end of the parish, close to the River Alne (Fig. 1). The earliest documented reference to the village dates to around 809 AD, when land at Alne was granted to the newly founded Abbey of Winchcombe by Cenwulf, King of the Mercians (VCH 1945). The abbey gained further land around the village at the end of the 12th century and held the manor until the Dissolution, when it was retained by the Crown and leased to Sir George Throckmorton. The manor was eventually sold by the Crown in 1599.

1.8 The Church of St Mary Magdalene, which is situated to the north of the main road through the village, dates from the late 12th century, although it was extensively restored in the 19th century and little of the original fabric survives. To the south of the church is Manor House, formerly known as Manor Farm, a 17th-century timber and brick building with 18th and 19th-century additions.

1.9 Great Alne Hall and the lodges at the entrances to the Maudslay estate were built in 1876 for Mr Daniel Rowlinson Ratcliff (Figs. 3 and 4), a lock and safe manufacturer and a Liberal politician who briefly sat as Member of Parliament for Evesham. The house was designed by the architect Mr G. H. Hunt, following Rowlinson's purchase of the manor from Sir Nicholas Throckmorton. Ratcliff resided at Great Alne until 1886, from which time the property was let to Arthur Lucas Chance, who eventually bought the hall in 1895. Following his death in 1932 the estate passed to his son, Walter Lucas Chance, who eventually sold the hall, in 1935, to Percy Swiffen. It was around this date that the hall was demolished and replaced by a smaller house on the same site.

1.10 In 1940, the Great Alne estate was sold to the Maudslay Motor Company, who moved part of their production of tank and aircraft parts from Coventry to Great Alne to escape the bombing. The company was taken over in 1948 and became part of Associated Commercial Vehicles (ACV) Ltd. The estate continued to be used for industrial and commercial purposes until recent times.

Archaeological objectives

1.11 The general aim of the excavation, as outlined in the WSI (CgMs 2012), was to expose and investigate the foundations of the 19th-century house, identify any archaeological remains predating its construction and determine if it had been built on the site of an earlier building of possible medieval origin.

Methodology

1.12 The excavation, which covered an area of *c.* 600m^2, comprised the investigation of the foundations, basement and cellar of the demolished house and, where possible, a 5m buffer zone around the footprint of the building's remains (Fig. 2). Due to the presence of large conifers, newt fencing and large piles of demolition rubble from the former office block that once stood on the site, the buffer zone could only be excavated on the east and west sides of the footprint. The area immediately to the north of the house had been truncated to a depth of almost 2m by the boiler room and cellars of the office block, which would have destroyed any archaeological remains, had they occurred in this area, so the buffer zone was not extended in this direction, although a sondage was excavated to determine the degree of truncation.

1.13 The site was surveyed using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and the data has been related to OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates. The area was scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment.

1.14 The site was excavated using a 360^o tracked mechanical excavator, using a variety of buckets suitable for stripping the site to archaeological standards. The first stage of machining comprised the removal of the concrete slab and rubble from the recent demolition of the office block and lifting the tarmac and concrete road that passed in front of the demolished building. The overburden, consisting of made-ground and soils previously used for landscaping, was then stripped to expose the top of the wall foundations of the Victorian house. The final stage of machining was to remove the rubble from the demolition of the house that filled its cellar and basement and reduce the ground level in the external areas (where accessible) to expose the

geological substrate or any archaeological remains. The spoil was stacked in temporary bunds around the edge of the site.

1.15 Features and deposits were recorded in accordance with the method statement (CA 2013) and *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007).

1.16 No deposits were encountered that warranted environmental assessment and there were no finds pre-dating the modern period. A sample of building materials was collected from the rubble filling the cellar, along with any fixtures and fittings from the house, to assist in determining the techniques used in its construction and to gain an insight into its interior decoration and design.

1.17 The archive from the excavation is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the site archive will be deposited with the Warwickshire Museum Service. A summary of information from this project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. FIELDWORK RESULTS

General stratigraphy

2.1 The excavation area measured approximately 30m east to west by 20m north to south (600m^2) and exposed the foundations, basement and cellar of the Victorian house (Figs. 2 and 5). Site constraints prevented the full excavation of the 5m buffer zone around the footprint of the building, with only limited areas to the east and west being accessible.

2.2 The geological substrate, 1075, was exposed in the buffer zones to the east and west of the building's footprint, in a sondage excavated through the floor in Basement B1 and in a sondage through the foundations of the office block boiler room. It generally comprised mid reddish-brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles, tending towards a crumbly, silty mudstone in the northern part of the site. The surface of the geological substrate lay at *c.* 66.12m aOD, approximately 1.0m below ground level (bgl). In the buffer zone the clay and mudstone was overlain by a layer of subsoil, 1008, which was up to 0.63m thick in the south-east corner of the site (Fig. 6); the thickness of the subsoil and its slightly sandy texture suggests a substantial colluvial input from sandy soils on the slope to the north of the site (hill-

wash). The original layer of topsoil had been stripped when the house was constructed, so the subsoil was overlain by a sequence of redeposited soils and made-ground associated with the demolition of the house and landscaping around the 1950s office block.

2.3 The area to the north of the house had been truncated to a depth of up to 2.0m by the boiler room and cellars of the office block. A sondage excavated in this area demonstrated that the floor of the boiler room was almost 1.0m below the surface of the geological substrate, so any archaeological remains that may have occurred in this area would have been entirely destroyed by its construction (Fig. 7).

Basement

2.4 The basement comprised four separate cells (Basement B1-B4) and would have occupied the space beneath the principal rooms in the southern half of the house. Access to the basement appears to have been through a doorway from the boiler room (Cellar C1) into Basement B4, from where access could be gained to the other three cells. A surviving hinge pin on the west door jamb confirms that there was a door at the entrance to the basement, but within the basement the narrow entrances and absence of any hinge pins or frame attachments suggests that there were no doors between cells. The building techniques and materials used in the construction of the basement were uniform throughout, showing that it was built in a single phase of construction. The walls, which survived to a height of up to 0.7m (five to six courses), were constructed from sandstone rubble, bonded with lime mortar; some of the sandstone blocks had been roughly dressed. The floor, which lay at *c*. 0.8m bgl (66.34m aOD), was formed from finely crushed ceramic material, 1084, similar to the fabric of brick or tile. The uniformity of this material throughout the basement suggests that it may be a waste-product from a brick kiln or pottery works.

Basement B1

2.5 Basement B1, which would have been located beneath the south-east corner of the house, measured approximately 7.1m north to south by 4.1m east to west. The external walls, 1009 and 1010, were generally between 0.7m and 1.0m thick; those forming internal partitions within the basement, 1017, 1021 and 1022, were approximately 0.5m thick. A sondage was excavated though the floor, 1066, revealing that this layer was 0.33m thick and lay directly over the geological

substrate. A ceramic land drain was exposed in the sondage, a relic of the land's former agricultural use prior to the construction of the house.

2.6 The south wall, 1010, projected outwards to form a deep rectangular bay to the east of the south porch (4.2m wide by 1.1m deep externally) and the central part of the east wall, 1009, had been thickened to support the chimney on this side of the house, creating two shallow alcoves on either side. A brick prop, 1070, abutted the thickened length of wall, possibly to provide additional support to the hearth in the room above. Access to this part of the basement was through a brick-lined entrance in the north wall.

Basement B2

2.7 Located beneath the former entrance hall on the south side of the house, Basement B2 measured approximately 5.2m east to west by 4.1m north to south (Fig. 8). The external south wall, 1014, was 0.95m thick and the internal partition walls, 1015, 1017, 1023 and 1058 were *c.* 0.5m thick. The central part of the east wall, 1017, had been thickened to 1.0m to support a chimney above and, as was recorded in Basement B1, a brick prop, 1039, abutted the chimney foundation at its northern end. The entrance to this part of the basement was through a brick-lined entrance in the north wall. A brass gas wall lamp was recovered from the demolition rubble, 1063, in this area (Fig. 9).

Basement B3

2.8 Basement B3 was located in the south-west corner of the house and more-or-less mirrored Basement B1 in its lay-out, size and construction, the only significant differences being the location of the entrance, which was in the north-east corner (Fig. 10), and there being a deeper alcove to the north of the chimney foundation in the west wall, 1024. Two ridge tiles and fragments of a decorative floor, comprising shaped, coloured floor tiles adhering to a mortar backing (Fig. 11), where recovered from the demolition deposits, 1062, filling this part of the basement.

Basement B4

2.9 Situated beneath the core of the house, Basement B4 measured 10.4m east to west by 5.0m north to south, although the eastern half, where access to the basement was gained from the boiler room, was narrower, at only 3.0m wide. The internal walls were *c.* 0.5m thick and survived to a height of approximately 0.4m; the

external east wall, 1020, which was far more substantial at *c.* 0.95m thick, survived to a height of 0.7m.

2.10 Noticeable features in this part of the basement comprised a thickened section of the north wall, 1028, which would have supported a chimney, and a brick prop in the middle of the narrow part of the cell, 1055, that may have supported joists for the floor above. Stacked against wall 1028, in the shallow alcove to the east of the chimney foundation, was a loose pile of plain and decorative wall and floor tiles, some of which are stamped with the 'Minton Hollins & Co' trademark (Fig. 12).

Cellar

2.11 The northern half of Great Alne Hall's foundations was occupied by the remains of the cellar, which was accessed by a flight of steps that would have descended from a doorway near the north door. At the base of the steps they turned into a passageway (Cellar C4) that led towards the coal store (Cellar C2) and boiler room (Cellar C1) beneath the north-eastern part of the house. Directly opposite the base of the steps was a small vestibule with two doorways leading into larders (Cellar C5 and C6) and another doorway, to the right, led into a room (Cellar C3) with a gutter running along the northern wall, beneath the rooms in the north-western corner of the house.

2.12 The external walls of the cellar (the external wall of the house) and the wall separating the cellar from the basement were constructed from sandstone rubble, using the same methods and to the same specifications as those recorded in the southern part of the house. Within the cellar, the stone walls were lined with engineering bricks, which were also used to build the cellar's partition walls. They were laid using English Garden Wall bond (four rows of stretchers to one row of headers) and bullnose bricks had been used on many of the corners and door jambs. The cellar's walls had been white-washed throughout, although in the coal store and boiler room they had become blackened with coal dust and soot. The floor throughout the cellar was laid with greyish-purple setts on a bed of grey sand, except in the larders where engineering bricks had been used. The floor level lay at 65.49m aOD, approximately 0.7m below the surface of the geological substrate.

Cellar C1 (boiler room)

2.13 The boiler room, which measured 5.1m north to south by 3.6m east to west, was located in the north-eastern corner of the cellar (Fig. 13). The external walls were

approximately 0.95m thick and survived to a height of up to 1.8m; the east wall, 1027, was reinforced with brick buttresses that projected *c.* 0.21m from the wall's surface. The west wall, 1069, was constructed from engineering bricks and its southern end was angled to form a deep, narrow alcove in the south-west corner. Access from the coal store was through a door in the north-west corner of the room, in the west wall, 1069, and in the south wall, 1059/1071, was a doorway leading into the basement. The threshold of the basement door was positioned *c.* 0.8m above the floor of the boiler room, so there would probably have been a short flight of timber steps to provide access. The floor of the boiler room, 1067, was noticeably worn, with the surface of the setts pitted and occasionally cracked, and coal dust and black tarry residues had accumulated on its surface along the eastern side of the room. The walls were blackened with soot, especially in the north-east corner of the room where the walls were also slightly scorched, suggesting that the boiler's furnace had been positioned in this location.

Cellar C2 (coal store)

2.14 The coal store, which was positioned next to the boiler room, measured 5.9m north to south by 4.0m east to west. The external north wall, 1056, was 0.95m thick and up to eighteen courses of bricks remained *in situ,* to a height of *c.* 1.6m. An opening in the centre of the wall with a shaped sill is the remains of the coal chute, 1081 (Fig. 14). There was an alcove in the south wall, 1028, where the wall was blackened with coal dust, suggesting that the coal was stored in this area. In the middle of the floor was a central drain with a cast iron grill, 1080.

Cellar C3

2.15 Cellar C3, which was located in the north-west corner of the cellar, was divided into two bays by a partition wall with a 1.85m wide opening (Fig. 15). There was no evidence in the layout, fittings or condition of Cellar C3 to give any indication as to its former use. The west bay measured 4.3m east to west by 3.2m north to south and its west wall, 1057, reflected the shape of the apsidal bay that once projected from the west elevation of the house. The remains of an opening in this wall may have been an aperture for a window, 1053, and a 0.13m wide bitumen-lined gutter, 1077, extended from beneath this opening and along the north wall, to enter a drain in the east bay.

2.16 The east bay measured 4.6m north to south by 2.7m east to west, its north wall, 1082, forming the foundations for the rectangular-fronted bay that once stood by the

north porch on the north elevation. The lower part of a window with a cast iron frame remained *in situ* in the north wall; bullnose bricks had been used on the corners on either side of the window and the sill was edged with bevelled bricks (Fig. 16). The gutter from the west bay, 1077, continued along the north wall to an open drain beneath the window. The twisted, shattered remains of several leadlights were found immediately outside the building, by the base of the west wall (Fig. 17)

Cellar C4 (passage and steps)

2.17 The cellar steps, which were approximately 0.7m wide, descended from a doorway that would have been located near the north door to the house; five of the steps at the bottom of the flight had survived the demolition of the house (Fig. 18). They were constructed from engineering bricks and were covered with a thin layer of hard cement render, painted black. The nosings were of rectangular-section timber; these had largely rotted, but sockets for the ends of the timbers and rebates at the edge of each step were evident. Screw holes in the wall marked the points were the hand rail had been attached.

2.18 The cellar steps turned at right angles at the bottom of the flight into a short passageway that led to the coal store and boiler room. The passageway was 1.1m wide and up to sixteen courses of bricks remained *in situ*.

Cellars C5 and C6 (larders)

2.19 Opposite the base of the cellar steps was a small vestibule, measuring 2.7m east to west by 2.0m north to south, from which two doorways opened into larders (Cellars C5 and C6). The west door opened into Cellar C5, a small room with the same dimensions as the vestibule. The external stone wall, 1025, was 0.95m thick and there were up to sixteen courses of the brick lining still *in situ*; the internal walls, 1042 and 1076, were built of engineering bricks and survived to a similar height.

2.20 At one time there had been a range of brick-built 'lockers' on the west wall, as indicated by patches of mortar and the patterning of the whitewash, but these had been removed before the house had been demolished. There had been three rows, with each 'locker' measuring 0.66m wide by 0.46m high internally and projecting 0.45m from the wall.

2.21 Cellar C6, accessed via a doorway in the south wall of the vestibule, measured 5.7m east to west by 2.1m north to south. It was of a similar construction and state of preservation as Cellar C5, the only difference being the apparent thickness of the external west wall, 1025, which was up to 1.8m thick. This additional masonry is likely to have been added to provide a base for the steps leading up to the west door of the house. The site of three rows of 'lockers' was recorded along the south wall, 1011 (Fig. 19), and there was a drain with a cast-iron grill, 1078, in the south-west corner of the room. A sample of glass jars and bottles was collected from piles of household debris that had been dumped in this part of the cellar (Fig. 20).

Annexe

2.22 The annexe, as it appears on the architect's drawings, was a single-storey extension on the north-east side of the house, comprising a possible porch for a side door and two large rooms, the northern one of which, possibly the kitchen, was subdivided into a series of smaller rooms. Removal of the overburden in this area revealed the footings for the southern room (Annexe A1) and the possible porch (Annexe A3) but little remained of the northern room (Annexe A2) as it had been almost entirely destroyed by the construction of the office block, leaving only a few short lengths of wall.

Annexe A1

2.23 Annexe A1, which was located next to the boiler room in the cellar, measured 7.0m east to west by 5.1m north to south. The west wall of this room was formed by the east wall of the main house, 1027; nothing remained of the other walls except for the footings, 1026, 1073 and 1074, which comprised a mix of mortar, gravel and fine sandstone pebbles filling a *c.* 0.7m deep foundation trench that had been cut into the subsoil. Removal of the subsoil exposed the geological substrate at *c.* 66.23m aOD.

Annexe A2

2.24 Nothing remained of Annexe A2, which may have been the kitchen, except for the footings for the east wall, 1031, and remnants of four internal partition walls, two of which had one or two surviving courses of engineering bricks still *in situ*. The foundations and boiler room of the 1950s office building had removed the remainder of this room.

Annexe A3

2.25 Situated in the angle between the south wall of Annexe A1, 1026, and the east wall of the main house, 1009/1020, Annexe A2 measured approximately 6.5m north to south by 2.7m east to west. The footings, the only part of this structure to survive, employed the same method and materials in their construction as that recorded for Annexe A1. A length of sandstone rubble and mortar masonry abutting the east wall of the house, 1019, may be the base of steps leading up to a side door.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Historic maps show that the village of Great Alne had at one time been larger, suggesting that in the medieval period it may have extended into the grounds of Maudslay Park, possibly as far as the site of the Victorian house of Great Alne Hall. Although there are no records of medieval remains within the site in the Warwickshire HER, ridge and furrow earthworks are still visible, so the potential for medieval settlement remains to occur was considered to be moderate to high (CgMs 2012). It was for this reason that one of the primary aims of the excavation was to identify and investigate evidence for medieval settlement or activity in a 5m buffer surrounding the footprint of the late 19th-century house. The evaluation carried out by CA in 2012 had demonstrated that the area within the house had been cellared, so the potential for archaeological remains to survive within its footprint was known to be minimal.

3.2 A variety of constraints imposed on the excavation limited the extent of the buffer zone to two areas, to the east and west of the building's footprint. However, a sondage excavated to the north demonstrated that the boiler room of the 1950s office block had truncated the geological substrate to a depth of almost 1.0m, destroying any archaeological remains that may have occurred in this area, so there would have been no purpose in excavating the buffer zone on this side of the building. This left the buffer zone on the southern side of the site unexamined, although this area had been landscaped, partly terraced and planted with conifers that had grown to a height of over 10m, so the area would have been extensively disturbed.

3.3 With the exception of a 19th-century ceramic land drain, a relic of the site's agricultural past, no archaeological remains pre-dating the construction of the house in the mid 1870s were encountered within the buffer zone or building footprint. The

undisturbed subsoil deposits encountered in the buffer zone were notably thick and sterile of finds of any period, suggesting that the site, throughout much of its past history, lay within an agricultural field at a distance from areas of habitation.

3.4 The excavation largely comprised the foundations of Great Alne Hall, which was built in 1876 for Mr Daniel Rowlinson Ratcliff, to designs by the architect Mr G. H. Hunt. Ratcliff, who was born in Edgbaston in 1837 to a family of machinists and founders, was a lock and safe manufacturer who went on to form the Ratner Safe Company, one of the last great safe manufacturing companies of the Victorian period (History of Locks 2013). In his early career, from around 1860, he worked for the firm of Thomas Milner & Son and in 1862 he married William Milner's daughter, Jane. He eventually became a partner in the firm and patented a variety of lock designs. When Jane's father died in 1874, Ratcliff received £35,000 in shares in the company, along with a host of other bonuses, so it is likely that this newly acquired wealth went towards the construction of Great Alne Hall in 1876. Ratcliff eventually left Milner's and, with his son William and John Horner, the former Milner Works Manager, formed Ratcliff & Horner Ltd in 1889. In 1895, following recapitalisation, the company was renamed the Ratner Safe Company Ltd. It is likely that some of the money for the second venture was raised from the sale of Great Alne Hall to Arthur Lucas Chance in the same year.

3.5 The surviving foundations, which comprised the basement and cellar and traces of an annexe on the east side of Ratcliff's house, correspond almost exactly with the inset plans shown on the architects design drawings (Fig. 3). It has been possible to associate thickened sections of the foundation with the locations of chimneys and match the foundations with the walls, window bays, main doors and porches shown in these drawings and in the photograph of the house taken *c*. 1910 (Fig. 4).

3.6 When it was demolished in the 1930s, the above ground structure of the house appears to have been comprehensively and systematically salvaged for building materials as the demolition deposits in the basement and cellar were largely comprised of mortar, plaster and brick. Only a small quantity of the light grey sandstone rubble from the building's outer walls was found and there were virtually no roof and ridge tiles in these deposits, suggesting that this material had been taken off site for use in other buildings.

3.7 A collection of architectural fixtures and fittings recovered from the rubble in the cellar and basement give some indication of the lavish, High Victorian interior decoration of the house. There were fragments of polished, coloured marble from the fireplace surrounds and pieces of moulded white plaster would have formed the edge of coving around some of the formal rooms. Wall plaster was painted in a variety of colours, including light blue, dark blue, pale green and light ochre; one piece appears to have been decorated with a floral pattern, although the pattern could have been retained from coloured pigment residues from long-rotted wallpaper. Remains of a decorated floor were found, comprising shaped, coloured tiles set on a mortar base, along with several thick, glazed floor tiles patterned with medieval style motifs, manufactured in Stoke-on-Trent by 'Minton Hollins &Co' (Fig. 11). The twisted, broken remains of several leadlight windows had been thrown into the basement and cellar during the demolition, or piled against the west wall. Most were glazed with plain glass, although several still retained fragments of coloured and painted window glass. One leadlight held pseudo 'bulls-eye' lights, imitating the thick, lens-like pontil marks at the centre of Crown glass that were once used for glazing, giving the window a fashionable, medieval-style, Pre-Raphaelite appearance (Fig. 17).

3.8 No evidence was found for the small house that was built by Percy Swiffen in the late 1930s on the site of Great Alne Hall, prior to the sale of the estate to the Maudslay Motor Company.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Carlyle, assisted by Vasileios Tsamis and Paolo Clemente. The report was written by Simon Carlyle and the illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive will be compiled and prepared for deposition by Derek Evans. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

5. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

With the exception of geological deposits and the subsoil, all of the features and deposits in the table below form part of the late 19th-century basement and cellar of Great Alne Hall, or are related to its construction and subsequent demolition. Finds recovered from the demolition deposits are referred to in the descriptive text.

Wall length measurements are internal and are taken from corner to corner, unless stated otherwise; height measurements are the maximum heights where walls separate basement from cellar (the height within the basement is given in brackets).

Context no.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1000	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown silty clay with freq. pebbles, redeposited, extends over landscaped area in front of former office block.	-	-	0.37
1001	Subsoil	Soft, mid brown silty clay with freq. pebbles, redeposited, extends over landscaped area in front of former office block.	-	-	0.19
1002	Fill of 1048	Soft, light whitish-yellow sandy silt with sandstone pebbles, backfill of modern pipe trench in SE corner of site (iron pipe, dia. 25mm).	-	-	0.30
1003	Layer	Soft, light yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent pebbles, demolition disturbance in SE corner of site.	-	-	0.23
1004	Layer	Loose, mid greenish-grey coarse sandstone rubble, demolition disturbance in SE corner of site.	-	-	0.24
1005	Layer	Soft, light reddish-brown silty clay with freq. sandstone pebbles, demolition disturbance in SE corner of site.	-	-	0.38
1006	Layer	Soft, light yellowish-brown silty clay with frequent pebbles, demolition disturbance in SE corner of site.	-	-	0.11
1007	Layer	Soft, mid reddish-brown silty clay with occ. Pebbles	-	-	0.42
1008	Subsoil	Soft, mid reddish-brown mottled silty clay with occ. Pebbles, overlies the geological substrate in areas outside of the footprint of the 19th-century house.	-	-	0.63
1009	Wall	External wall of Basement B1 (E wall), aligned N-S, *c.* 5-6 courses formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. The wall is angled to form shallow alcoves in SE and NE corners and is thicker between the alcoves (1.1m thick) to support the chimney.	4.9	0.97	0.68
1010	Wall	External wall of Basement B1 (S wall), aligned E-W, c. 5-6 courses formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. The wall is angled to form a projecting bay to E of S porch; the wall is 0.7m thick in the bay front.	3.9	1.10	0.71
1011	Wall	Internal wall separating Basement B3 and Cellar C6. Formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. Within the cellar the walls are faced with Type A bricks, 1/2 brick thick, English Garden Wall Bond, up to 16 courses, bonded with lime mortar, white-washed. Variation in the colour of the white-wash and traces of mortar on the wall indicate location of lockers within the larder, each measuring 0.66m wide by 0.46m high by 0.48m deep internally.	4.7	0.55	1.38 (0.47)
1012	Foundation of S porch	Trench containing compacted mid greenish-grey coarse sandstone rubble, extends to S beyond l.o.e., perpendicular to S wall of building.	1.0+	0.73	0.15
1013	Foundation of S porch	Trench containing compacted mid greenish-grey coarse sandstone rubble, extends to S beyond l.o.e., perpendicular to S wall of building.	1.0+	0.70	0.15
1014	Wall	External wall of Basement B2 (S wall), aligned E-W, c. 5-6 courses formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar.	4.3	0.95	0.62
1015	Wall	Internal wall separating Basement B2 and B3, aligned N-S, *c.* 5 courses, formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime	5.1	0.55	0.54

		mortar. Soot on wall in NW corner of B2. Type B bricks line entrance to B3.			
1016	Wall	External wall of Basement B3 (S wall), aligned E-W, c. 5-6 courses formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. The wall is angled to form a projecting bay to W of S porch; the wall is 0.7m thick in the bay front.	3.9	1.1	0.64
1017	Wall	Internal wall separating Basement B1 and B2, aligned N-S, *c.* 5 courses, formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar.	4.9	0.53	0.58
1018	Foundation	Foundation of E wall of Annexe A3, aligned N-S, trench filled with mortar mixed with coarse sandstone rubble and gravel.	6.3	0.84	0.47
1019	Wall	L-shaped section of wall abutting E wall of house (1020), formed from *c.* 5 courses of sandstone rubble, bonded with lime mortar. Wall is 3.2m long, with 1.0m projection to E at N end.	3.2	0.76	0.6
1020	Wall	Northwards continuation of 1009, forms external E wall of house, E wall of Basement B4.	2.4	0.93	0.68
1021	Wall	Internal wall separating Basement B1 and B4, aligned E-W, *c.* 5 courses, formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. Doorway centrally placed, 0.51m wide, lined with Type B bricks.	3.9	0.43	0.60
1023	Wall	Internal wall separating Basement B2 and B4, aligned E-W, *c.* 5 courses, formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. Doorway centrally placed, 0.58m wide, lined with Type B bricks.	4.3	0.41	0.59
1024	Wall	External wall of Basement B3, aligned N-S, c. 5-6 courses formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. The wall is angled to form a shallow alcove in SW corner and a deeper alcove in the NW corner. The wall is thicker between the alcoves (1.1m thick) to support the chimney.	5.1	0.95	0.67
1025	Wall	External (W) wall of larders (Cellar C5 and C6), aligned N-S, *c.* 5-6 courses formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. Within the cellar the walls are faced with Type A bricks, 1/2 brick thick, English Garden Wall Bond, up to 16 courses, bonded with lime mortar, white-washed. Variation in the colour of the white-wash and traces of mortar on the wall indicate location of lockers within Cellar C5, each measuring 0.66m wide by 0.46m high by 0.47m deep internally.	3.8	0.96	1.39
1026	Foundation	Foundation of S wall of Annexe A1, aligned E-W, trench filled with mortar mixed with coarse sandstone rubble and gravel, abuts 1019.	4.7	0.84	0.36
1027	Wall	Northwards continuation of 1009 and 1020, forms external E wall of house, E wall of Cellar C1 (boiler room). Within the cellar the wall is lined with Type A bricks, one brick thick, English Garden Wall Bond, up to 19 courses bonded with lime mortar, white-washed but covered in soot and coal dust. There are two brick buttresses, 0.49m wide by 0.23m deep, set against the wall.	*4.3*	0.88	1.67
1028	Wall	Internal wall separating Basement B4 from Cellar C2 (coal store) and C4 (passageway), aligned E-W, formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. The wall is angled to form shallow alcoves either side of a thickened section of wall (1.1m thick) that would have supported the central chimney. Within the cellar and passageway the wall is lined with Type A bricks, one brick thick, English Garden Wall Bond, bonded with lime mortar, white-washed, but covered in soot and	4.3	0.52	1.8

		coal dust in the coal store. Bull-nose bricks used at base of stairs (1068), screw holes in wall for hand rail fittings.			
1029	Wall	Same as 1028.	-	-	-
1030	Foundation	Foundation trench for internal partition in Annexe A2, aligned N-S, filled with mortar/cement mixed with coarse sandstone rubble and gravel, abuts 1034 and *.	1.5	0.70	0.2+
1031	Foundation	Foundation trench for external wall of Annexe A2, aligned N-S, filled with mortar/cement mixed with coarse sandstone rubble and gravel, abuts *. Truncated to N.	4.6+	0.65	n.e.
1032	Foundation	Foundation trench for internal partition in Annexe A2, aligned E-W, filled with mortar/cement mixed with coarse sandstone rubble and gravel, abuts 1031 and 1033.	0.85	0.45	n.e.
1033	Wall	Internal wall of Annexe A2, aligned N-S, formed from a single course of Type B engineering bricks bedded on mortar/cement foundation, abuts 1032. Truncated to N.	1.2+	0.32	0.07
1034	Wall	Internal wall of Annexe A2, aligned E-W, formed from a 3 courses of Type B engineering bricks bedded on mortar/cement foundation, abuts 1030. Truncated to W.	2.1+	0.23	0.18
1035	Wall	External wall of Cellar C1 (N wall of boiler room), aligned E-W, formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. Within the cellar the walls are faced with a two leaves of Type A engineering bricks, bonded with mortar, white-washed but covered in soot and coal dust. Exterior face not accessible.	*c.* 3.0	1.1	1.8
1037	Wall	External wall of Cellar C4 (N wall of passageway), aligned E-W, formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. Within the cellar the walls are faced with a single leaf of Type A engineering bricks, bonded with mortar, white-washed. Exterior face not accessible.	*c.* 3.0	1.1	1.8
1038	Wall	External wall of Cellar C3 (N wall), aligned E-W, formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. The wall is angled to form a broad alcove, into which is set a window aperture. Within the cellar the walls are faced with a single leaf of Type A engineering bricks, bonded with mortar, white-washed. Exterior face not accessible.	5.4	1.0	1.8
1039	Brick support	Brick pedestal constructed from Type B bricks bonded with mortar, 6 courses.	0.62	0.39	0.52
1040	Wall	Internal wall projecting S from wall 1038, constructed from three leafs of Type A bricks bonded with mortar, white-washed	1.35	0.35	1.8
1041	Wall	Remnants of a stone and brick wall, possibly part of the north porch, too badly truncated to be certain.	*c.* 6.0		
1042	Wall	Internal wall separating Cellar C5 from C3, aligned E-W, constructed from Type A and B engineering bricks, stretcher bond, up to 16 courses, white-washed.	5.1	0.24	1.38
1043	Geological substrate	See 1075	-	-	-
1044	Foundation	Foundation courses of wall 1009, uncoarsed sandstone rubble bonded with mortar.	2.7+	1.1	0.89
1045	Foundation	Mortar and sandstone rubble bed for foundation courses of wall 1009, exposed in section excavated outside SE corner of Basement B1.	2.7+	*1.1*	0.35
1046	Fill	Firm mid reddish-brown to brownish-grey silty clay with occ. Flint pebbles.	-	-	0.35
1047	Foundation trench	Foundation trench for wall 1009.	2.7+	*1.1*	0.35
1048	Pipe trench	Modern trench	-	-	-
1055	Brick support	Short length of wall within Basement B4, aligned E-W, constructed from two leaves of Type B bricks, stretcher	1.7	0.3	0.6

		bond with alternate headers at the ends, bonded with mortar.			
1056	Wall	External wall of Cellar C2 (N wall), aligned E-W, formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. The wall is angled to form a broad alcove, into which is set a coal chute (1081). Within the cellar the walls are faced with three leaves of Type A engineering bricks, up to 18 courses, bonded with mortar, white-washed but blackened with coal dust. English Garden Wall Bond. Exterior face not accessible.	3.3	1.0	1.8
1057	Wall	External wall of Cellar C3 (W wall), aligned N-S, formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. The wall is angled to form a three-sided bay to support the window bay above. Within the cellar the walls are faced with two leaves of Type A engineering bricks, up to 19 courses, bonded with mortar, white-washed. English Garden Wall Bond. Exterior face not accessible.	2.2	1.0	1.8
1059	Wall	Internal wall separating Basement B4 and boiler room (Cellar C1). Formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. Within the cellar the walls are faced with Type A bricks, one brick thick, English Garden Wall Bond, bonded with mortar, white-washed. Brickwork extends round doorway, bullnose bricks on corner, iron hinge pin at base.	2.4	0.55	1.45
1060	Demolition rubble	Demolition debris in Basement B4, largely comprising bricks and mortar with occ. Sandstone rubble. Decorative glazed tiles found stacked against the N wall (1028) of the basement.	-	-	0.6
1061	Demolition rubble	Demolition debris in Cellar C2, largely comprising bricks and mortar with occ. Sandstone rubble.	-	-	0.6
1062	Demolition rubble	Demolition debris in Basement B3, largely comprising bricks and mortar with occ. Sandstone rubble. Two notched ridge tiles and fragments of decorative tiled floor recovered from this deposit.	-	-	0.6
1063	Demolition rubble	Same as 1062	-	-	-
1064	Foundation	Foundation trench, running perpendicular to E wall of house (1009), filled with mortar mixed with coarse sandstone rubble and gravel.	3.0	*0.8*	0.56
1065	Demolition rubble	Demolition debris in Annexe A3, largely comprising bricks and mortar with occ. Sandstone rubble.	-	-	n.e.
1066	Floor	Floor comprising rammed light reddish-orange brick fragments and pinkish-white mortar, extends throughout basement of house.	-	-	0.33
1067	Floor	Floor within cellar, laid with purple setts on a bed of sandy mortar, continuous throughout cellar except in C6, where Type A bricks have been used.	-	-	0.15
1068	Steps	Stairs leading into cellar, constructed from Type A and B bricks, bonded with lime mortar, descends to S and turns at 90° to right at bottom of flight. Four steps remain. Slots and rebate at edge of treads indicate that it had timber nosings. Screw holes for hand rail fittings visible on wall 1028.	2.7	1.2	1.48
1069	Wall	Internal wall separating Cellar C1 from C2, aligned N-S, constructed from Type B bricks, one brick thick, English Garden Wall Bond, up to 16 courses, white-washed but blackened with coal dust. Angled at S end to form a deep, narrow alcove. Partly collapsed during excavation.	3.3	0.24	1.43
1070	Brick support	Brick pedestal constructed from Type B bricks bonded with mortar, 6 courses.	0.70	0.54	0.40
1071	Wall	Internal wall separating Basement B4 and boiler room (Cellar C1), to E of doorway. Formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. Within the cellar the walls are	1.1	0.55	1.43

		faced with Type A bricks, one brick thick, English Garden Wall Bond, bonded with mortar, white-washed. Brickwork extends round doorway, bullnose bricks on corner.			
1072	Wall	Internal wall separating Basement B4 from Cellar C5 and C6. Formed from sub-angular sandstone rubble, some blocks roughly dressed, bonded with lime mortar. Within the cellar the walls are faced with Type A bricks, one brick thick, English Garden Wall Bond, bonded with lime mortar, white-washed.	3.2	0.52	1.42
1073	Foundation	Foundation trench forming E side of Annexe A1, filled with mortar mixed with coarse sandstone rubble and gravel.	4.3	0.67	0.46
1074	Foundation	Foundation trench forming N side of Annexe A1, filled with mortar mixed with coarse sandstone rubble and gravel.	5.6	0.64	0.12+
1075	Geological substrate	Firm mid reddish-brown silty clay with occ. Flint pebbles	-	-	-
1076	Wall	Internal wall separating Cellar C5 from C6, aligned E-W, constructed from Type A and B bricks, one brick thick, English Garden Wall Bond, up to 16 courses, white-washed.	3.6	0.24	1.22
1077	Gutter	Square-section gutter running along base of W (1057) and N (1032) walls of Cellar C3, leads into drain 1081. Lined with bitumen. Up to 0.11m deep at drain.	*c.* 7.0	0.13	0.11
1078	Drain	Cast iron grill over drain in SW corner of larder (Cellar C6)	-	-	-
1079	Drain	Cast iron grill over drain at E end of larder (Cellar C5)	-	-	-
1080	Drain	Cast iron grill over drain in centre of coal store (Cellar C2)	-	-	-
1081	Coal chute	Aperture in wall 1056, chamfered brick surround, blackened with coal dust.	-	1.05	-
1082	Window	Remains of cast iron window frame set in aperture in wall 1056, glass panes still in situ (0.16m x 0.23m).	-	1.05	-
1083	Window?	Aperture in wall 1057, truncated by modern drains, may have been a window.	-	0.76	-

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Maudslay Park, Great Alne	
Short description	Excavation revealed the substantial stone and brick foundations of Great Alne Hall, a late 19th-century house, designed and built by the architect Mr G. H. Hunt for Mr Daniel Rowlinson Ratcliff. The remains of the southern part of the house comprised a basement, divided into four cells, which would have occupied the area below the principal rooms on the south side of the house. This area was entirely backfilled with demolition rubble to a depth of *c.* 0.6m and its removal revealed a rammed brick/fired clay rubble floor. On the northern side of the house were the remains of the cellar, which consisted of five brick-lined rooms with white-washed walls, linked by a passage from the steps. The walls survived to a height of up to *c.* 1.8m and the floor was laid with purple-grey setts, which were continuous throughout the cellar. Internal features included a coal chute, part of a metal-framed window, door pins, drains, a gutter and the imprint on the larder walls of brick 'lockers'. Ridge tiles, coloured floor tiles, decorative ironwork, the twisted remains of leadlight windows, decorative wall tiles and fragments of marble from fireplace surrounds were recovered from the demolition deposits, giving an indication of the splendid interior decoration that once adorned the house. Other than agricultural land drains, there was no evidence for any activity or structures on the site prior to the construction of the 19th-century house.	
Project dates	4-15 February 2013	
Project type	Strip, map & sample excavation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (CgMs 2004); trial trench evaluation (CA 2012)	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type	Late 19th-century house foundations	
Significant finds	Late 19th-century fixtures and fittings, modern glass bottles and jars	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Maudslay Park, Great Alne, Warwickshire	
Site area	*c.* 600m^2	
Site co-ordinates	SP 12061 59812	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs	
Project Supervisor	Simon Carlyle (CA) and Vas Tsamis (CA)	
PROJECT ARCHIVE		
Physical	Accession no: n/a	Content Building materials (sample only), fixtures and fittings
Paper		Site records
Digital	Warwickshire HER	Report, digital photos

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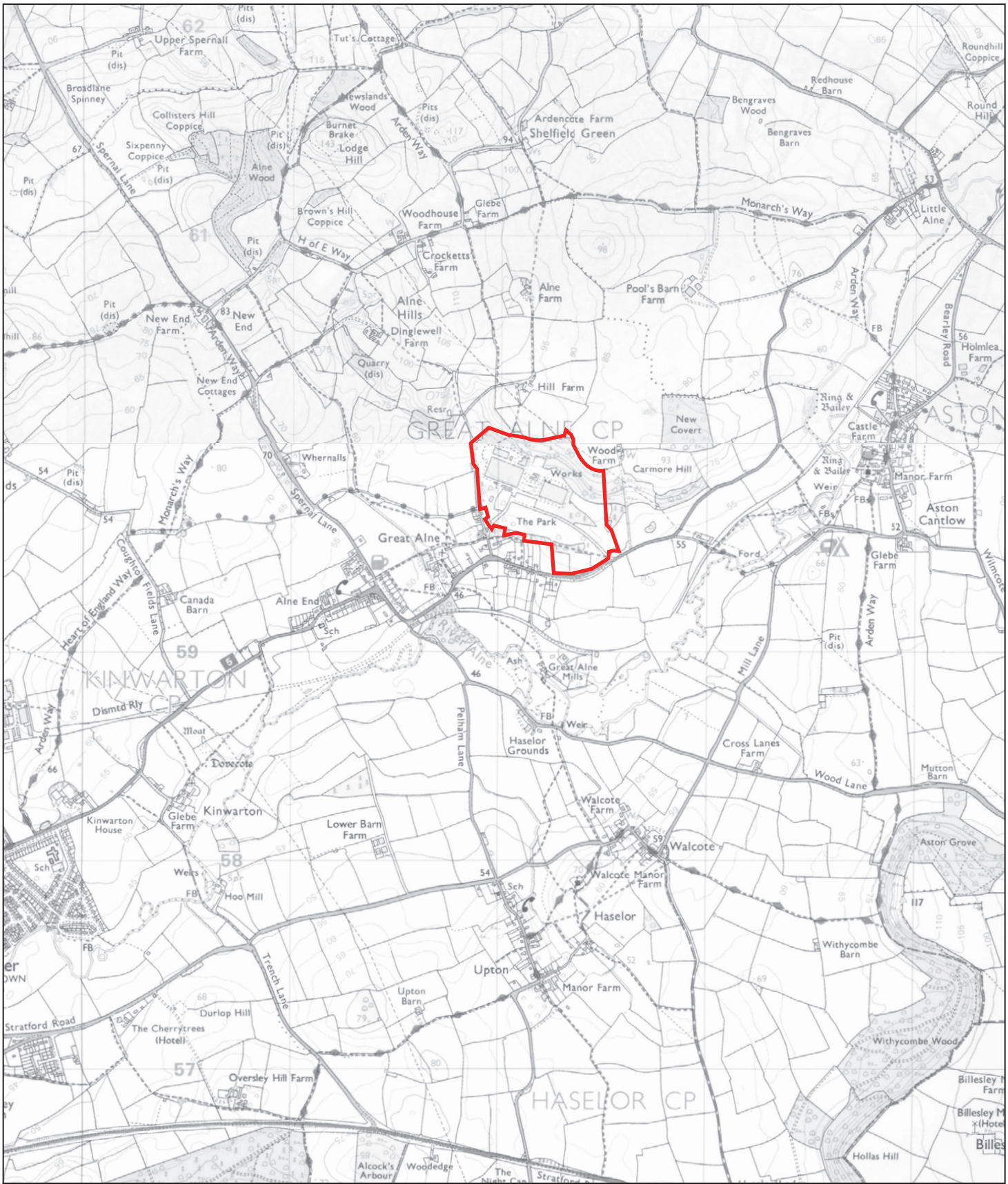
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Maudslay Park, Great Alne, Warwickshire: Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample Excavation.* CA typescript report **13076**



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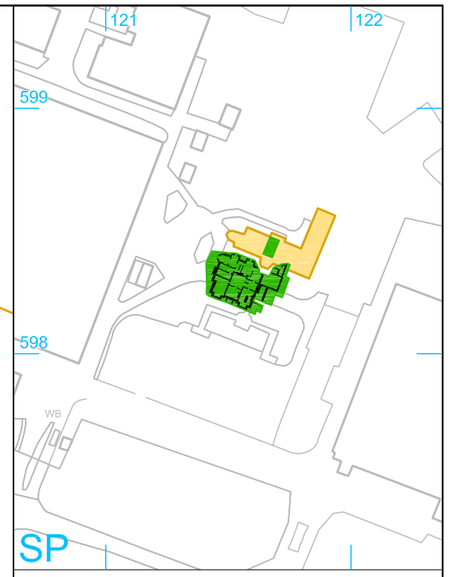
PROJECT TITLE

Great Alne Hall, Maudslay Park Great Alne, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO.	660114	DATE	20-03-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LG	REVISION	00	1
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



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PROJECT TITLE
Great Alne Hall, Maudslay Park
Great Alne, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE
Plan of the excavation

PROJECT NO.	660114	DATE	20-03-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LG	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:125 & 1:2500	

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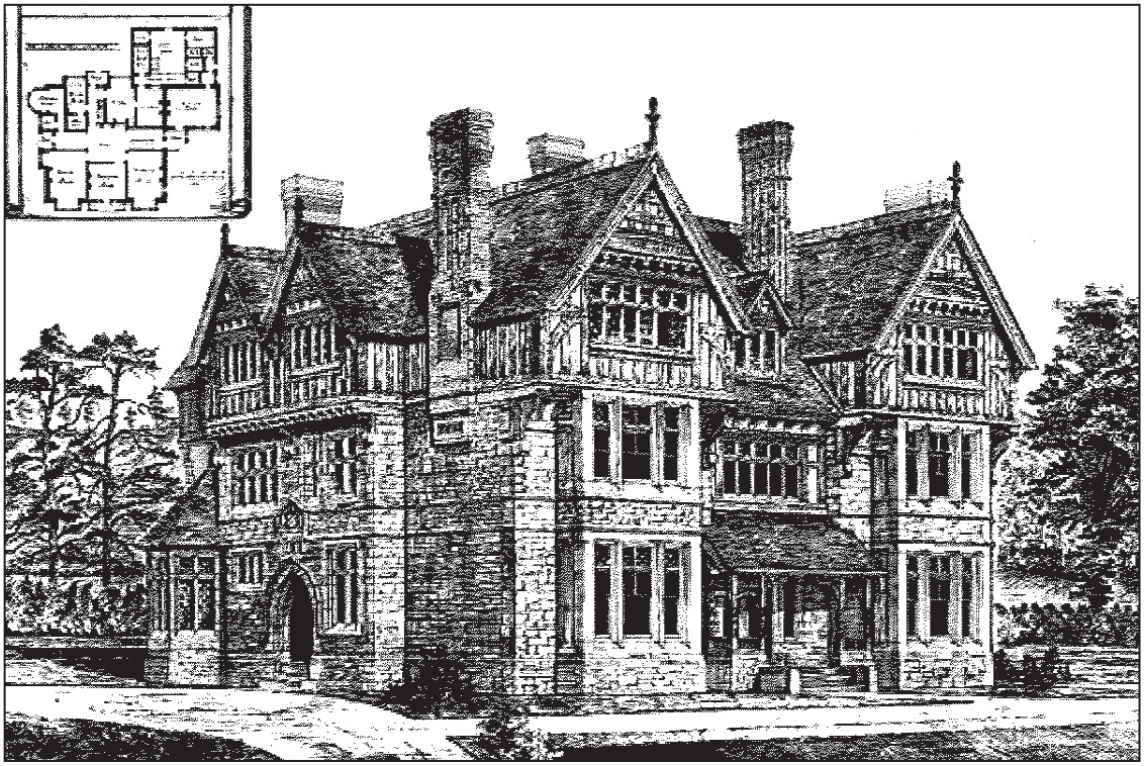

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3 Architect's drawing of Great Alne Hall, *c.* 1876

4 Photograph of Great Alne hall, taken *c.* 1910

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PROJECT TITLE
Maudslay Park, Great Alne, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

PROJECT NO.	**660114**	*DATE*	**20-03-2013**	*FIGURE NO.*
DRAWN BY	**LG**	*REVISION*	**00**	**3 & 4**
APPROVED BY	**PJM**	*SCALE@A4*	**N/A**	

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5 General view of the house foundations, looking south

6 Deposits in the south-east corner of the site, looking south. (Scale 1m)

7 Office block boiler room, looking west. (Scale 1m)

8 Basement B1 and B2, looking west. (Scales 1m)

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PROJECT TITLE

Great Alne Hall, Maudslay Park
Great Alne, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO.	660114	DATE	20-03-2013	FIGURE NO.
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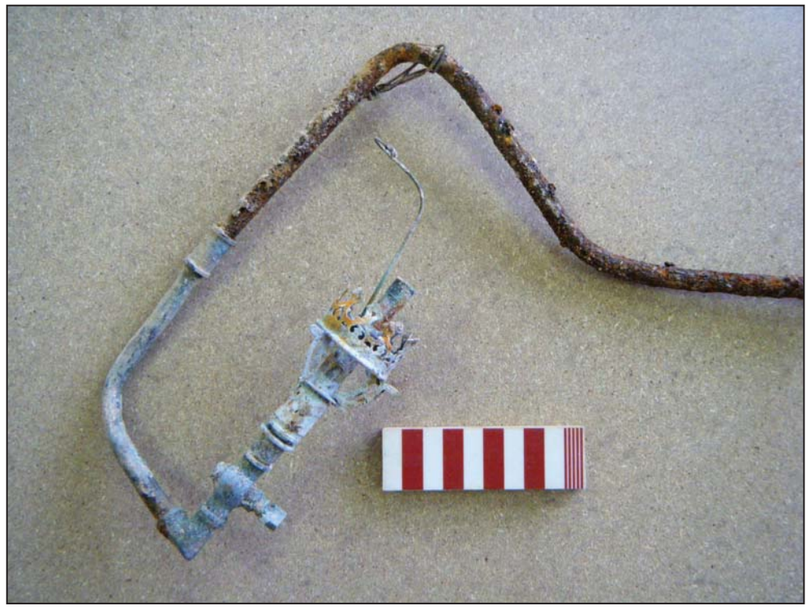
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	N/A	



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9 Gas wall lamp from demolition deposits in basement B2

10 Basement B3, showing brick lining around the entrance, looking south-west. (Scales 1m)

11 Ridge and floor tiles recovered from demolition deposits in Basement B3

12 Selection of decorative glazed tiles found stacked in Basement B4

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PROJECT TITLE
Great Alne Hall, Maudslay Park
Great Alne, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

PROJECT NO.	660114	DATE	20-03-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LG	REVISION	00	9-12
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	N/A	

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13 View of the boiler room (Cellar C1), looking east. (Scales 1m)

14 View of coal store (Cellar C2) and coal chute, looking north. (Scales 1m)

15 View of Cellar C3, showing the gutter on the right, looking west. (Scales 1m)

16 Window in the north wall of Cellar C3, looking north. (Scale 0.1m)

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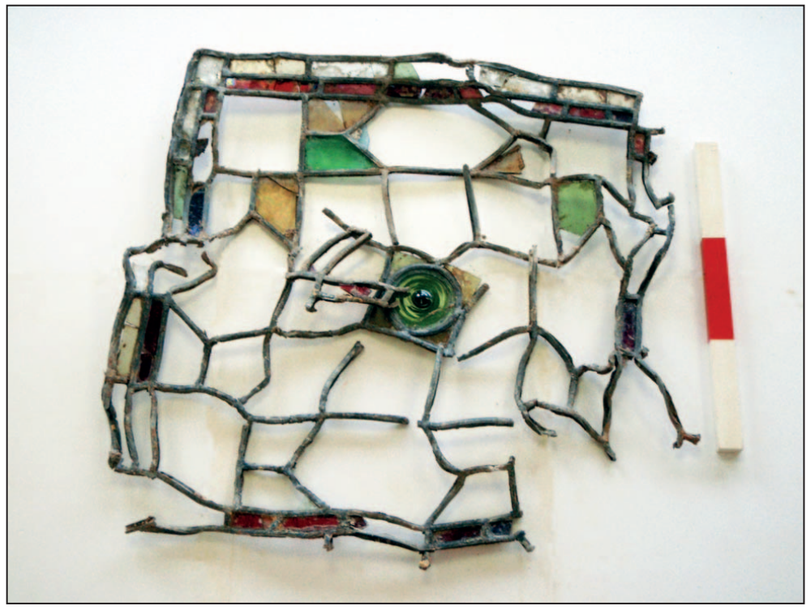
PROJECT TITLE

Great Alne Hall, Maudslay Park
Great Alne, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO.	660114	DATE	20-03-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LG	REVISION	00	13-16
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	N/A	



17

18

19

20

17 Leadlight window recovered from demolition deposits in Cellar C3. (Scale 0.3m)

18 Stairs to the cellar and passageway (Cellar C4), looking south-east. (Scale 1m)

19 Larder (Cellar C6), looking west. (Scales 1m)

20 Selection of jars and bottles from the larders (Cellars C5 and C6). (Scale 0.2m)

Cotswold Archaeology

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